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March 29, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Group (CI)
10:30 a.m., Friday, March 29, 1963

PRESENT: Mr. Johnson, The Attorney General, General Taylor, Mr. Murrow,
Mr. Forrestal, Mr. Bundy vice Mr. Gilpatric, Mr. Wolf vice
Mr. Bell, Mr. Karamessines vice Mr. McCone

Mr. Kitchen, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Bond were present for Item 1.

Mr. Carroll was present for Items 1 and 2.

Mr. Bowling was present for Item 2.

1. Counterinsurgency Training Report

The Chairman of the Subcommittee on Training, Mr. Kitchen, presented a summary review of the report submitted to the Group by the Subcommittee on Training, and noted that the Interdepartmental Seminar has progressively improved since it was established last summer. It is now completing its fifth session. The members agreed that it is serving a very useful function. However, Mr. Kitchen pointed out that high-level support is still required to maintain the continued success of the Seminar. Senior speakers have too often cancelled at the last moment, and in some cases, this has occurred even with respect to their replacements. In addition, continued attention must be given to the assignment of students who meet the established criteria. The members observed that advance personnel planning is required in order to insure that this is accomplished. It was agreed that an effort should be made to improve both of these situations. Other matters referred to by Mr. Kitchen included the decision to reduce the sessions to six per year and to conduct a full review of the course during the summer months.

Mr. Bond, the Coordinator of the Seminar, discussed with the members several ideas for improving its administration and curriculum. These were well received by the Group and included the need to relate this course to other instruction in this area to insure that prior to attending the Seminar the students are adequately prepared in subjects, such as historical background, tactics, and techniques. At the present time, Mr. Bond feels that the syllabus lacks focus and direction and hopes to modify it in order to provide a more logical progression of subject material. This will also require advance notice to guest speakers to insure that they know precisely what they are to present to the students and how the subject matter fits into the course.

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It was generally agreed by the members that the Seminar should be modified from a five week to a four week course when this is feasible. Mr. Kitchen stated that with the establishment of a permanent faculty under the leadership of Mr. Bond, the Subcommittee's supervisory role will be considerably reduced.

It was noted that the development of case studies are somewhat behind schedule and will need to be stimulated to include not only the current analysis of the Greek campaign but past insurgency operations in the Philippines, Malaya, Viet-Nam and Algeria.

The Group agreed that the Subcommittee should arrange a symposium consisting of the senior training officers of the various government schools engaged in counterinsurgency training. The Group should exchange information, ideas, instructional material, and in general to insure the coordinated effort of these schools to accomplish the over-all training objective.

The Group also agreed that sufficient progress has been made to warrant a full training report to the President, similar to that provided on June 1, 1962. In closing, Mr. Morgan emphasized that the Seminar is proceeding in the right direction and that he strongly feels that the more the faculty can be used for research in this area, the greater advantage will be derived by all.

2. Status Report on Tribal Insurgency in Iran

Mr. Bowling discussed with the members the Department of State memorandum circulated on this subject. He indicated that although there has been a considerable amount of intelligence information received, it has been somewhat diverse and inconclusive. The military forces are considered to have the capability to control the situation as the uprising is not of major proportions at this time. However, should the Kurdish tribes also revolt, the situation will of course be much more serious, but there is no evidence of such a development at this time. Recent disturbances in the urban areas indicate that there will probably be pressure for the extension of riot control assistance to provincial cities earlier than is currently planned.

Mr. Carroll, who has just returned from an extensive trip through the Near East, including Iran, expressed the view that all the elements are present in Iran which would provide for a major explosion should they be brought together at the same time. A factor contributing to a possible deteriorating situation is the low morale of the Army.

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It was noted that NSAM 228 calls for a full review of the U.S. programs in Iran, and will be an occasion for taking this matter under advisement. In the meantime, it was suggested that both Mr. Bowling and Mr. Karamessines get in touch with Justice Douglas relative to information he may have concerning the Qashqai, an Iranian tribal group which is said to possibly be in contact through their leaders with the Soviet Union.

3. Miscellaneous

A. The Chairman noted that Mr. Forrestal had circulated a report on the security situation in Thailand.

B. Mr. Forrestal suggested that it would be desirable to have an intelligence estimate on the situation in Bolivia, especially on that relating to recent reports indicating the possible introduction of new Czechoslovakian arms.

C. The members noted that Mr. Davis will be leaving for a foreign assignment and took this opportunity to express their appreciation for his excellent work as Executive Secretary during the past year.

James W. Dingman

for

Thomas W. Davis, Jr.
Executive Secretary

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